REACH HIGHER

LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

WINTER 2021

Thank you 1st Source Bank for the generous donation to the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation. Service in the community is one of 1st Source Bank's principal values, helping to build good places to live, work and raise families. We are grateful for the generosity.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS

"Relationships are the key to a rich life," says Lakeshore Middle School Principal, Susan Toothman.

READ MORE PAGE 5.

Thank you for your continued support!

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Chad Deja
Greg Eding
Janine Harrison
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Phil Molloy
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Julia Pechtel
Jennifer Powers
Dana Riley
Jim Roberts
Bill Scaletta
Rachel Scholten
Lewis C. Scott
Heather Valenziano
Lori VonKoenig
Kathleen Wolf

Welcome New Board Members

Leslie Arbanas

Leslie Arbanas

Leslie is a proud graduate of Lakeshore High School and grew up here in Stevensville. She attended Lake Michigan College where she obtained an Associate Degree of Applied Science specializing in Radiologic Technology. After working in Grand Rapids at Spectrum Health and then going back to college to specialize in Ultrasound, Leslie has been working as a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer for over 20 years. After having worked as a traveling technologist for some years and had the chance to see different parts of the country, she knew without a doubt where she wanted to settle down and start her family, right here in southwest Michigan.

Leslie had the opportunity to serve as secretary with the Hollywood PTO during her daughters' elementary years giving her an even greater appreciation for the education system and realize how grateful she is of the dedicated staff and support system within the Lakeshore community. The LEF has helped fund multiple learning opportunities, one of which Leslie's daughters was lucky enough to be a part of, "The Leader in Me" program at Hollywood Elementary. This program teaches leadership skills as well as instilling good habits at early ages. Leslie believes in the work of this foundation and its commitment to education; she is honored to be invited onto the LEF board and hopes to make an impact towards providing the best possible education for all lakeshore students.

Leslie and her husband Joel, an AEP electrician and Baroda volunteer firefighter, along with their two daughters, Chloe and Josie (both Lakeshore High students), enjoy living a bit of the country life on their five acres in Baroda. You can usually find Leslie on the sidelines of her daughter's tennis or volleyball matches or appreciating the beautiful area she lives in, whether it be gardening, hiking, biking, or skiing in the winter.

Lewis C. Scott

Lewis C. Scott

Lewis C. Scott is the vice-president, senior community development officer with Horizon Bank located in Michigan City, IN.

Prior to joining Horizon Bank, Lewis worked at Allstate Insurance Company for five years and worked at American Express Corporation for four and half years leading a team of B2B sales professionals in the very competitive payment solution industry.

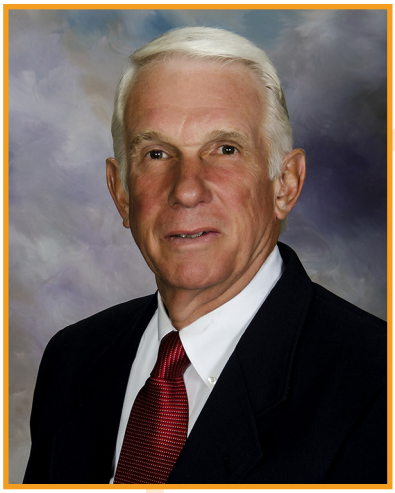
Lewis spent 20 years with the FCA Corporation. While at Chrysler, he held various sales leadership positions in an assortment of different locations all over the country.

Lewis earned a master's degree in Business Administration from Central Michigan University and earned an undergraduate degree from Eastern Michigan University in Business Communication and Marketing. In addition to his studies, Lewis played basketball for Eastern Michigan University throughout his four years as an undergraduate.

Lewis resides in St. Joseph, Michigan. He was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan where he still refers to as home, despite relocating several times throughout his corporate career. Lewis is the father of three children, two girls, and one boy. His oldest daughter, Lauren Scott, attended Michigan State University, his middle child, Lindsay Scott, attended Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. The youngest child, Nathan Scott, is a graduate student athlete attending Eastern Michigan University.

Chairman Anderson Expresses Gratitude

To All Who Make the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation "Work" ...



J.C. Anderson, Chairman

With the end of the year and my favorite holidays approaching, I thought that it would be appropriate to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to a number of areas that have enabled the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation (LEF) to become an efficient and effective financial supporter for the Lakeshore Public Schools. The various areas are noted below in no particular order since it takes each of these, working together, to enable the effectiveness of the LEF:

1 Individual Contributors

During the past several years, we have grown our Lancer Leaders (annual contribution of $1,000+) from none in 2013 to approximately 80 individuals and businesses. It is hard to express in words how grateful I personally am that this face-to-face discussion regarding a contribution to support the school has been successful. In the beginning, we had some doubts that people would listen to a pitch for this kind of support dollars. I have found this community to be a very giving community when it comes to the education of our children. Thank you!

2 Business Donations

Our local businesses have come to anticipate and openly support two of our annual fundraisers with very generous donations from their business. Items such as a gift basket from Kilwins, a gift card from the Bread+Bar, or a round of golf at Harbor Shores have been used as items up for bid during our annual Online Auction in February or as a raffle ticket item at the Lakeshore Golf Scramble in June. Generous gifts like these have enabled the Online Auction to raise approximately $23,000 and the Golf Scramble approximately $30,000 in net fundraising for the school. Thank you to the generous businesses who support LEF!

3 Community Contributors

Our Lakeshore community has graciously supported our LEF efforts in a number of ways. Whether you are an individual financial contributor, a business owner, or you take part in the Online Auction, participate in the Lakeshore Golf Scramble, our community has been incredibly supportive. Last year we even added our cash raffle where three cash prizes were awarded with only 250 tickets sold to enable us to net approximately $20,000. With gratitude, I hold up the entire Lakeshore community for their participation which is a critical cog in what makes the LEF an effective fundraising organization for the Lakeshore Public Schools. Again, thank you!

4 LEF Board

I feel that our all volunteer board of 23 individuals is the best LEF board that we have ever assembled! Each member has a special reason why they chose to be on the board and bring a real energy to each meeting. The board makes the face-to-face contribution requests, solicits the businesses for the product donations to use in the Auction and Golf Scramble, organizes the Online Auction and the Golf Scramble, sells 250 tickets for the Cash Raffle, and effectively reviews and selects the grants for the use of $250,000 in grant money that we provide. All of this is done on a volunteer basis and deserves a high five from me for making all of this effectively come together. Thank you!

5 Foundations

We are fortunate to live in a community where there are foundations that have been established to support the community and public education of our children. By far, our annual contribution from the Whirlpool Foundation is our largest single contribution. This year the annual golf outing and related fundraising done by Whirlpool for the benefit of this community raised over $2 million, which has been allocated to the Boys & Girls Club, the First Tee, and the three local school foundations of Lakeshore, St. Joseph, and Benton Harbor. We received a check for $250,000 this year, which is the largest ever. Each year, I humbly and graciously accept this check on behalf of the LEF. Being a 39-year Whirlpool employee who retired from the company, it makes me very proud that I worked for an organization that cares and contributes this

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Story of Inclusion

LIV KYNCL, LAKESHORE VARSITY FOOTBALL

Liv Kyncl

When the football coach, from a school that places it's football team in high esteem, approaches you to try out, what do you do? Your first reaction might be to say "of course you'll join." But, the answer is not always that easy... when you are a girl.

Freshman Liv Kyncl had to go through this very scenario when Lakeshore's Freshman Football Coach, Danny Davison, approached her. He was looking for a kicker and knew that Liv was the goalkeeper on her travel soccer team. Coach Davison asked Liv if she'd be willing to come kick for him so they could see how she'd do. Before you know it, her first attempt went squarely through the uprights! Talk about excitement!

Coach Davison saw Liv go five for five that afternoon and knew he had found the player he was looking for, if she'd decide to join the team.

When you are breaking barriers and doing something that has never been done before, it's not always an easy decision to make. Not only do you have to think about the concerns in your own head, but in this case, Liv also had to consider the impact it could have on her twin brother who was also on the team. She was worried about what he was thinking and how he was going to treat her. In the beginning, it was really rough. Her brother wasn't thrilled to have his sister join the team. There were comments from outsiders that didn't help either.

Liv's Mom and Dad also had their own concerns. Their daughter was considering joining the football team. Rachel Kyncl, Liv's Mom, was definitely worried. What if Liv got hurt? Maybe she'd be less likely to be injured if Liv only kicked PAT's (points after touchdowns)? There were a lot of questions and concerns to be fielded.

Ultimately, Liv decided that she'd give it a try because the team needed a kicker. And heck, she was good at it too, so why not? In addition to PAT's, Liv also ended up kicking field goals.

Even though her brother wasn't too happy about the idea initially, when Liv went two for two on her PAT's in the game against Portage, she definitely proved herself. Liv's Mom mentioned that the two siblings talked about the game the whole ride home.

Liv has learned a lot about herself through this experience. Sometimes you may need to give people time to change their minds or opinions about you or the situation. On top of that, Liv also learned that sometimes it is fun to put yourself out there and to step out of your comfort zone. If you do, you may find something that is enjoyable. After Liv was hit three times in a game

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Empowering Students to Build Positive Relationships

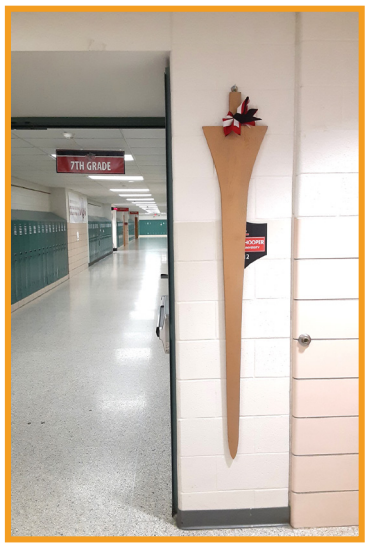
Bravery, Humility, Enthusiasm, Open-Mindedness - these are just a few of the 24 character strengths Lakeshore Middle School students are learning about as part of the Positivity Project, or P2.

According to the founders of the **Positivity Project**, the premise is simple: Together, we can create citizens and leaders who will enhance our communities and country by focusing on character strengths and positive relationships.

At the start of the school year, LMS students took a survey to determine their top character strengths. Then, the P2 curriculum got underway. For 30-minutes, every week, students explore a different character strength through in-class activities, videos, and discussions.

The model of P2 is to make children aware that every one of them has all 24 character strengths, in hopes of providing the foundation for genuine self-confidence grounded in self-awareness. At the same time, it helps children better understand why everyone is different and how to appreciate those differences.

Middle School Motto



The Golden Lance is placed at the entry of the winning grade level's hallway for the week.

Teachers nominate students who best exemplify the LMS motto.

"Relationships are the key to a rich life," says Lakeshore Middle School Principal, Susan Toothman. "The Positivity Project not only empowers our students to define who they are as an individual, but it encourages them to see the world from another person's perspective."

Through the Positivity Project, students learn to:

- Recognize their own feelings, interests, strengths, and limitations (self-awareness)
- How to regulate emotions and manage daily stressors (self-management)
- Perspective-taking, empathy, and an appreciation of similarities and differences (social awareness)
- Exhibit prosocial behavior and demonstrate positive social skills in order to develop meaningful relationships (relationship skills)
- Make ethical decisions, and strengthen the ability to develop appropriate solutions to identified problems (responsible decision making)

The P2 program is made possible at Lakeshore Middle School thanks to a multi-year Staff Support Grant funded by the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

Former LMS Principal Jonathan Swegles initially applied for the funding, and current LMS Principal, Susan Toothman, resubmitted the request to continue the P2 subscription for another year. Toothman says the program's impact can be seen everywhere you look.

Continued PAGE 11.

It's Better with LEF!

THE LHS WEIGHT TRAINING & CONDITION ROOM IS IMPROVING

PE teacher, Mike Gathright, has a desire to expand Lakeshore's "weight room" into more of a fitness environment.

Gathright shared that "Adding cardio machines as we have through the LEF over the last five years has greatly enhanced our ability to serve more students. This year's additions of adaptive machines expands the opportunity to students who are looking for a unique cardio workout, rehabbing an injury or have a physical limitation that might keep them from using a standard cardio machine."

Gathright received a grant from the LEF to purchase two cardio machines; Precor AMT and an Octance Lateral Elliptical. Both are "adaptive" machines meaning that they can accommodate students of varying fitness levels as well as those with physical diverse-abilities.

Any student who has access to the Weight Training & Conditioning Room with a PE class or a coach after school has access to these machines.

BRING YOUR IDEA TO LIFE
WITH A LEF GRANT
With four Grant Categories to choose from, the next great idea for our schools can come from anyone: students, teachers, staff, or community members.
Professional Development
Patti Florian Student Enrichment
Foundation Project
Staff Support
APPLY AT
LEFONLINE.ORG
STARTING DECEMBER 1

LEF LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

Excellent schools are the foundation of excellent communities. When you invest in Lakeshore schools through the LEF, you are investing in the quality of life in our community both today and tomorrow.

When Split Seconds Count

Lakeshore Middle School student Kieran S. claims first place in a tight race!

Chad Milletics, Lakeshore High School Teacher

Lakeshore Track and Field and Cross Country teams now have a new tool at their disposal when a race is too close to call.

Lakeshore High School Science teacher, Chad Milletics, was recently awarded an LEF Foundation Project Grant to purchase a new timing system for use at home events, and other track and field and cross country competitions across the area. Milletics put the new system to the test, for the first time, at Lakeshore Middle School's Cross Country meet versus Upton Middle School, this past September.

At 2,000 frames per second, the camera is extremely accurate - capturing times down to .0005 of a second. And while that precision is essential, especially during track and field meets, Milletics says there is another important benefit for the school district to have access to the system.

"It's just a huge cost savings," says Milletics. "Lakeshore doesn't have to hire companies to come in. I can run the system. If it was a big invitational, Michiana Timing would charge $1500, but now all Lakeshore has to pay for is my time to run it, since the school owns the equipment."

Milletics says he's always loved running, competing in high school, and then as the cross country and track and field coach for Lakeshore. Milletics says he was so excited to see his grant idea become reality.

"I was just so happy when I received my approval letter from LEF," said Milletics. "It's just a good benefit all around for Lakeshore, the students, and my family as well."

When split seconds count, Milletics will be tracking accurate photo-finish results, thanks to the support of donors and the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

"It's a great organization that does so many things giving back to the community," says Milletics. "I don't think the community always sees all of that. As a teacher I have always been part of the two cent program* so it's nice to get some of that back here."

You can submit your ideas for an LEF Foundation Project Grant starting December 1. Grant applications can be found at www.lefonline.org

*The 2¢ Campaign gives Lakeshore schools' staff an easy way to contribute to LEF. The LEF requests just 2¢ per hour from every staff member. This commitment has enabled LEF to raise over $10,000 annually – and we have the opportunity to raise even more with 100% participation in this campaign.

LEF Supports Career and Technical Education

As more industries are feeling the discomfort of open jobs, paired with the rising costs of a college education, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs have made a resurgence in schools across America. Yet, many people are unclear what "career and technical education" is and what type of students are in these programs.

CTE programs teach specific career skills to students in high school. Applied Educational Systems says that CTE programs are often split into 16 career clusters that apply to different, high-demand careers including: Health Science, Business, Sales, Finance, Information Technology, STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, Manufacturing, Logistics, Hospitality, Government, Law, Agriculture, Human Services, Construction, Training and Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and Communications. Many of these areas are in high demand and can lead to high-paying careers.

CTE is unique in that its coursework is focused on learning skills versus a university-based education which is based on theory. CTE may include some theory, but it weighs heavily on experience, practice and application. The hands-on application of knowledge gained within the CTE path is critical because many of the careers in the field require workers to have experience in their field before starting a career. In many cases, students earn certification while they are in high school. When they graduate, these young adults are prepared for their careers or enter into a formal apprenticeship program.

There is a myth that the CTE path is only a good option for students who don't excel in academics, but that couldn't be farther from the truth. Careers in technical fields are a great option for students who thrive with interactive, hands-on learning. Take senior Brock Wolf, for example. Brock has been a highly capable student but he wasn't sure he wanted to spend the time or money on a college education that would put him in a job behind a desk. Brock tried the Welding program during his junior year and loved it, so he's enrolled in Welding again for his senior year. Brock said "I really liked getting to learn how to function in a shop environment. It's also really great how local businesses develop a positive relationship with the school and offer job opportunities to students." With help from his CTE teacher, Mr. Schmidt, Brock is currently working at Dura Mold, learning the skills required to be successful in their business.

Lakeshore Schools are fortunate to have educational paths that can support many different types of future opportunities for our students. From STEM and dance to automotive technology, welding to the arts, Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is proud to support these inclusive options for our students.

Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan Speaker Series

Did you know the LEF organizes for a limited number of students from Lakeshore along with students from five other school districts to attend the **Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan Speaker Series**?

Not only do they have a chance to hear the speaker at the Mendel center, but also have a private Q&A session with them.

This season's lineup is:

Oct. 6 - National Geographic Live: Brian Skerry, Underwater photographer

Dec. 7 – Alan Alda, TV icon, science communicator

Feb. 8 – Bill Nye – Science educator, television personality, and CEO of The Planetary Society

Mar. 15 – Mo Rocca, CBS News correspondent, podcaster, and TV personality

Apr. 19 – Henry Winkler - Emmy Award-winning actor, author, director, and producer

May 10 – Lara Logan, Award-winning broadcast journalist

LEF
LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

Congratulations to the grant recipients of this past year.

Every year, the LEF allocates approximately $200,000 for grants that make a positive impact on Lakeshore Public Schools.

You can find out all the details and how to apply by visiting our website at https://lefonline.org/grants

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

APPLY
DECEMBER 1 – FEBRUARY 12

The Professional Development Grant is for staff who seek to bring continual energy, talent and passion to their roles. Do you have a great opportunity to develop and strengthen your professional talents and skills by attending a conference, seminar, workshop, college course or other experience?

PATTI FLORIAN

STUDENT ENRICHMENT

APPLY
DECEMBER 1 – MARCH 12

If you are a Lakeshore student in any grade, kindergarten through high school, this grant may be of interest to you! Patti Florian Student Enrichment Grants are awarded for activities or events that promote self-improvement through exploration, discovery, study and interaction.

FOUNDATION PROJECT

APPLY
DECEMBER 1 – FEBRUARY 12

The best ideas in education come from teachers. If your proposal costs over $2,500 you should consider applying for a Foundation Project Grant. Do you have a big idea that would benefit a large constituency of Lakeshore students, staff, and/or the community?

STAFF SUPPORT

APPLY
DECEMBER 1 – FEBRUARY 12

Do you have an idea for a quality educational experience that would benefit Lakeshore students, staff, and/or the community? If your proposal costs up to $2,500 and could be completed within the year following the grant award, you should consider applying for a Staff Support grant.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS

Continued from PAGE 5.

"Every Wednesday, during our school-wide Family Meeting, we recognize one student as our Lancer leader of the week," says Toothman. "This student is selected by teachers based on how well they model our LMS school motto of 'Take Care of Yourself, Take Care of Each Other, Take Care of This Place,' which directly correlates to the Positivity Project's message. The student receives a certificate, gets to place a Lancer Leader of Week yard sign in their yard, and has his or her picture in the hallway for the week."

In addition, the grade level that best demonstrates the motto in practice for that week receives "The Golden Lance." Attendance, academics, and behavior are all looked at before that choice is made.

Finally, three Lancer Leader Ticket Winners are announced each week. Students receive tickets from teachers for demonstrating the school motto. The winning students' names are announced on Monday and they earn a Positivity Project bracelet.

Toothman says there is a lot of excitement surrounding the project, and the reward will be realized for years to come.

"It is an amazing resource for us at LMS," says Toothman. "We know we are successful when our students realize that other people matter."

Watch for weekly parenting prompts from the Positivity Project in your LMS student's weekly, electronic newsletter. For more details on P2, visit: posproject.org

STORY OF INCLUSION

Continued from PAGE 4.

and had a cleat ground into her foot, you might question whether or not football is something you'd consider enjoyable, but Liv refers to it as "keeping it real." At the end of the season, Liv was asked by Varsity Coach Danny Thompson to dress for the last game of the regular season. Liv also dressed for the playoff game. Although she didn't get in, Liv was ready on the sidelines. She's not just a tough girl, she's a tough athlete.

Liv's advice to others: "Take new experiences and opportunities as they come."

Liv's parents are incredibly proud and want their daughter to realize that she is capable of doing anything she sets her mind to. Even though Liv didn't set out to break down barriers when she joined, she was the first girl to dress and play on the Lakeshore Varsity Football team.

"This definitely wasn't something she set out to do. Coach Davison would tell you that he's a really good recruiter! We hope this opens the door for other kids to do things that haven't been done before or aren't the norm," said Liv's mom, Rachel.

Liv proved that she belonged on the team. A sense of belonging is the heartbeat of inclusion.

Congratulations Liv!

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON

Continued from PAGE 3.

money to the local community. A very special "thank you" to Whirlpool Corporation! We also receive awards from a couple of other foundations where we must write specific grant applications. This year we are receiving a significant $30,000 grant from the 1st Source Bank Foundation and we receive annual grant monies from the Upton Foundation of approximately $30,000. Thank you to each foundation!

As you can see, LEF would not be successful on our own. Ten years ago this support was approximately $50,000. This recent combination of efforts and generous contributors has enabled the LEF to support the Lakeshore Public Schools with major projects and grants totaling approximately $500,000 annually. Again, I am humbled and very grateful for the support that everyone has provided to LEF and the growth in support of the Lakeshore schools.

With sincere gratitude,
J.C. Anderson
LEF Board Chairman

VISIT THE LEF WEBSITE AT: LEFONLINE.ORG

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you shop on Amazon.com? Did you know you can buy the exact same items, at the same price, and LEF will receive a percentage of your sale?

Simply go to Smile.Amazon.com and choose Lakeshore Excellence Foundation as your charitable organization.

MAKE YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING COUNT!

It's as simple as going to:

smile.amazon.com

LAKESHORE Alumni

WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

1. Join the Lakeshore High School Alumni Facebook Group:
   Search for "Lakeshore High School Alumni" and Join the Group
2. Register on the LEF website for email updates:
   lefonline.org/alumni/get-registered

If you graduated from Lakeshore High School, this is a great way to stay in touch!

LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund is our long-term strategy to funding the LEF mission of learning for generations to come.

Annually, the LEF Board evaluates the health of the fund, makes contributions based on giving and project needs, and reinvests the earned interest. If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment Fund, please contact J.C. Anderson at (269) 921-2513 or email at anderjcna@gmail.com.

THE FACTS

The state funding for public schools in Michigan continues to be a challenge and Lakeshore is in the bottom 25% in funding. Yes, 75% of Michigan public school districts receive more state funding on a revenue per student basis!

SIX WAYS TO GIVE

1. Donate conveniently online
2. Swing those clubs
3. Become a Lakeshore Lancer Leader
4. Give us your two cents
5. Endowment Fund
6. Planned Giving

LEF LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

Learn more about LEF

Visit our website: LEFonline.org
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Read our newsletter in the Lakeshore Light
Contact our Chairman, J.C. Anderson (anderjcna@gmail.com)